Message Text

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R 261828Z MAY 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA AMCONSUL MONTREAL INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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MONTREAL FOR USREP ICAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, PORG, ICAO, CY, TU, US

SUBJECT: NORTHERN CYPRUS AIRSPACE

REF: (A) ANKARA 3386; (B) MONTREAL 755; (C) MONTREAL 768

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES USREP'S EFFORTS TO FOLLOW UP ON TURKISH AND TURKISH CYPRIOT APPROACHES TO ICAO IN MONTREAL. SINCE MATTER OF NORTHERN CYPRUS AIRSPACE REMAINS UNRESOLVED, CONFIDENTIAL

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SAFETY HAZARD CONTINUES TO EXIST AS RESULT OF UNILATERAL TURKISH ACTION. AT THIS POINT WE WOULD BE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, BY AN EFFORT WHICH WOULD IMPLY DE FACTO ACCEPTANCE OF "ERCAN CONTROL". WE WOULD OF COURSE WELCOME RESUMPTION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES IN NORTHERN CYPRUS AIRSPACE BY LARNACA/NICOSIA ACC BUT WE THINK THIS IS NON-STARTER FOR PRESENT. CONTROL OF AIRSPACE BY TURKISH CYPRIOTS AD-

DITIONAL TO THAT ALREADY ASSIGNED BY ICAO LEADS TO FLIGHT HAZARD RESULTING FROM CONFLICTING INSTRUCTIONS. THIS WOULD CONTINUE REGARDLESS OF HOW WELL TURKISH CYPRIOTS WERE TRAINED OR EQUIPPED.

2. FOR MONTREAL: USREP SHOULD CONTINUE IN CONTACTS WITH ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT KOTAITE AND SECRETARIAT TO URGE WHATEVER ACTION CAN BE TAKEN WITHIN ICAO CONTEXT. USREP MAY NOTE TO KOTAITE THAT WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSE-

LY WITH HIM AND SECRETARIAT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE "ERCAN CENTER" PROBLEM HAS UNFORTUNATE AIR SAFETY IMPLICATIONS DIRECTLY RELATED TO ICAO'S WORK AND HOPE THAT ICAO WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN PRESSING FOR A SOLUTION COMPATIBLE WITH AIR SAFETY AND WELL ESTABLISHED ICAO PROCEDURES.

3. FOR ANKARA: DRAWING ON REFS B AND C, YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THE USG CONSIDERS A POTENTIAL SAFETY PROBLEM STILL EXISTS. YOU MAY ALSO WISH DRAW ATTENTION TO NEW U.S. NOTAM, BEING ISSUEDSOON, WHICH DRAWS U.S. PILOTS' ATTENTION TO HAZARD EXISTING IN NORTHERN CYPRUS AIRSPACE. VANCE

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